

News

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FOR RELEASE:

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Consumer Price Index for St. Louis **Annual changes from the second half of 2002 to the second half of 2003**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the St. Louis metropolitan area increased 2.5 percent over the last year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Energy prices rose 8.4 percent, accounting for nearly one-fourth of the increase in the overall index. Excluding the impact of energy, the CPI for St. Louis rose 2.0 percent, according to Acting Regional Commissioner John D. Gordon.

Housing costs increased 3.3 percent from the second half of 2002 to the second half of 2003. Shelter costs rose 2.5 percent over the year. Within shelter, rent of primary residence increased 3.0 percent and owners' equivalent rent of primary residence rose 1.9 percent. Fuels and utilities prices advanced 8.9 percent. Within fuels and utilities, utility natural gas prices increased 31.8 percent after dropping 20.3 percent over the previous year. Electricity prices decreased 2.2 percent over the year, following the same decline in the previous year. Household furnishings and operations increased 1.0 percent.

Transportation prices rose 1.1 percent over the year. Motor fuel prices increased 6.0 percent, following an increase of 9.3 percent in the same period one year ago.

Food and beverages prices rose 1.3 percent. Prices for food purchased for consumption at home increased 2.6 percent while prices for food away from home edged up 0.4 percent. Prices for alcoholic beverages decreased 1.5 percent, partially offsetting the increase in food prices.

Apparel prices increased 2.8 percent over the year. Prices for other goods and services rose 0.1 percent.

Recreation prices increased 5.1 percent. Education and communication prices experienced an increase of 3.6 percent.

The St. Louis CPI-U stood at 174.5 for the second half of 2003. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 cost \$174.50 in the second half of 2003.

Due to insufficient data, the medical care component is not available for the second half of 2003.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods

St. Louis, MO-IL (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

| Item and Group | Semiannual average indexes | | | Percent change to | |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | 2nd half 2002 | 1st half 2003 | 2nd half 2003 | 2nd half 2002 | 1st half 2003 |
| Expenditure category | | | | | |
| All items..... | 170.3 | 172.3 | 174.5 | 2.5 | 1.3 |
| All items (1967=100)..... | 505.9 | 511.9 | 518.3 | - | - |
| Food and beverages..... | 172.3 | 172.2 | 174.5 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Food..... | 170.3 | 170.4 | 172.8 | 1.5 | 1.4 |
| Food at home..... | 161.5 | 163.6 | 165.7 | 2.6 | 1.3 |
| Food away from home..... | 183.8 | 182.7 | 184.5 | .4 | 1.0 |
| Alcoholic beverages..... | 188.4 | 186.3 | 185.5 | -1.5 | -.4 |
| Housing..... | 163.4 | 166.0 | 168.8 | 3.3 | 1.7 |
| Shelter..... | 183.8 | 186.9 | 188.4 | 2.5 | .8 |
| Rent of primary residence..... | 168.7 | 170.8 | 173.7 | 3.0 | 1.7 |
| Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1) | 191.9 | 193.6 | 195.6 | 1.9 | 1.0 |
| Fuels and utilities..... | 137.6 | 141.2 | 149.8 | 8.9 | 6.1 |
| Fuels..... | 127.7 | 125.0 | 140.7 | 10.2 | 12.6 |
| Gas (piped) and electricity..... | 131.7 | 128.4 | 145.0 | 10.1 | 12.9 |
| Electricity..... | 144.0 | 122.3 | 140.8 | -2.2 | 15.1 |
| Utility (piped) gas service..... | 116.5 | 139.5 | 153.6 | 31.8 | 10.1 |
| Household furnishings and operations..... | 138.8 | 141.1 | 140.2 | 1.0 | -.6 |
| Apparel..... | 121.2 | 119.1 | 124.6 | 2.8 | 4.6 |
| Transportation..... | 151.3 | 153.7 | 152.9 | 1.1 | -.5 |
| Private transportation..... | 151.2 | 154.1 | 152.7 | 1.0 | -.9 |
| Motor fuel..... | 129.1 | 142.0 | 136.9 | 6.0 | -3.6 |
| Gasoline (all types)..... | 127.1 | 139.8 | 134.8 | 6.1 | -3.6 |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular (2)..... | 122.4 | 135.7 | 130.5 | 6.6 | -3.8 |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (2) (3)..... | 146.4 | 160.7 | 156.0 | 6.6 | -2.9 |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium (2)..... | 127.4 | 139.4 | 135.1 | 6.0 | -3.1 |
| Medical care..... | 279.4 | 282.4 | - | - | - |
| Recreation (4)..... | 108.2 | 113.0 | 113.7 | 5.1 | .6 |
| Education and communication (4)..... | 112.2 | 113.3 | 116.2 | 3.6 | 2.6 |
| Other goods and services..... | 250.6 | 251.8 | 250.8 | .1 | -.4 |
| Commodity and service group | | | | | |
| All items..... | 170.3 | 172.3 | 174.5 | 2.5 | 1.3 |
| Commodities..... | 150.4 | 150.7 | 150.8 | .3 | .1 |
| Commodities less food and beverages..... | 137.5 | 138.0 | 137.0 | -.4 | -.7 |
| Nondurables less food and beverages..... | 153.5 | 155.3 | 156.9 | 2.2 | 1.0 |
| Durables..... | 120.2 | 119.7 | 116.5 | -3.1 | -2.7 |
| Services..... | 191.7 | 195.4 | 199.7 | 4.2 | 2.2 |
| Special aggregate indexes | | | | | |
| All items less medical care..... | 164.4 | 166.5 | 168.5 | 2.5 | 1.2 |
| All items less shelter..... | 167.1 | 168.9 | 171.0 | 2.3 | 1.2 |
| Commodities less food..... | 139.8 | 140.2 | 139.2 | -.4 | -.7 |
| Nondurables..... | 163.2 | 164.1 | 166.1 | 1.8 | 1.2 |
| Nondurables less food..... | 156.1 | 157.7 | 159.2 | 2.0 | 1.0 |
| Services less rent of shelter (1) | 204.5 | 209.6 | 215.9 | 5.6 | 3.0 |
| Services less medical care services..... | 183.0 | 186.6 | 190.8 | 4.3 | 2.3 |
| Energy..... | 127.6 | 131.5 | 138.3 | 8.4 | 5.2 |
| All items less energy..... | 177.1 | 178.6 | 180.6 | 2.0 | 1.1 |
| All items less food and energy..... | 178.7 | 180.5 | 182.5 | 2.1 | 1.1 |

1 Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

2 Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

3 Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

4 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.